



STATE SENATOR

RICH ZIPPERER

Testimony of Senator Rich Zipperer in Support of Senate Bill 457

This bill is based on legislation that was introduced last session, and updates and improves state law to ensure all gas stations in our state are accessible to customers with disabilities, as required by federal law. This legislation was originally drafted in consultation with not only disability advocates, but also with Wisconsin gas station representatives and the Department of Safety and Professional Services.

This bill provides that, consistent with existing federal law, gas stations in Wisconsin must provide refueling assistance, without an additional fee, upon the request of a customer with a disability, unless only one employee is on duty.

Under this bill gas stations would also be required to post signs stating that a customer with a disability can obtain refueling assistance by honking a horn or requesting assistance from an employee.

Thank you for your time today. I would be happy to answer any questions that the committee members may have.



PEGGY KRUSICK
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary, Utilities, Commerce and Government Operations
From: Peggy Krusick and Rich Zipperer
Date: February 22, 2012
Subject: Gas Pump Accessibility for Drivers with Disabilities (SB 457)

Requested by Independence First and others, this bill would update and improve state law to help ensure that all gas stations in Wisconsin are accessible to customers with disabilities as required under federal law. This legislation was originally drafted in consultation with disability advocates, Wisconsin gas station representatives and the Department of Safety and Professional Services (formerly known as the Department of Commerce).

In the 2009 session, the Assembly and Senate Consumer Protection Committees passed this legislation (AB 285/SB 679) on unanimous votes of 9-0 and 5-0, respectively.

The Bill

Requires all gas stations in Wisconsin to do the following:

- provide refueling assistance upon the request of a customer with a disability, unless only one employee is on duty.
- provide this refueling assistance without any charge beyond the self-service price.
- post signs stating that a customer with a disability can obtain refueling assistance by honking a horn or requesting assistance from an employee. (The Department of Safety and Professional Services would design these signs and determine where they should be posted in consultation with advocates for the disabled and the elderly, petroleum marketers, and gas station operators).

Supporters

IndependenceFirst, Wisconsin Coalition of Independent Living Centers, Survival Coalition, Board for People with Developmental Disabilities and Disability Rights of Wisconsin
